

## Bill Paton — devoted worker and our friend

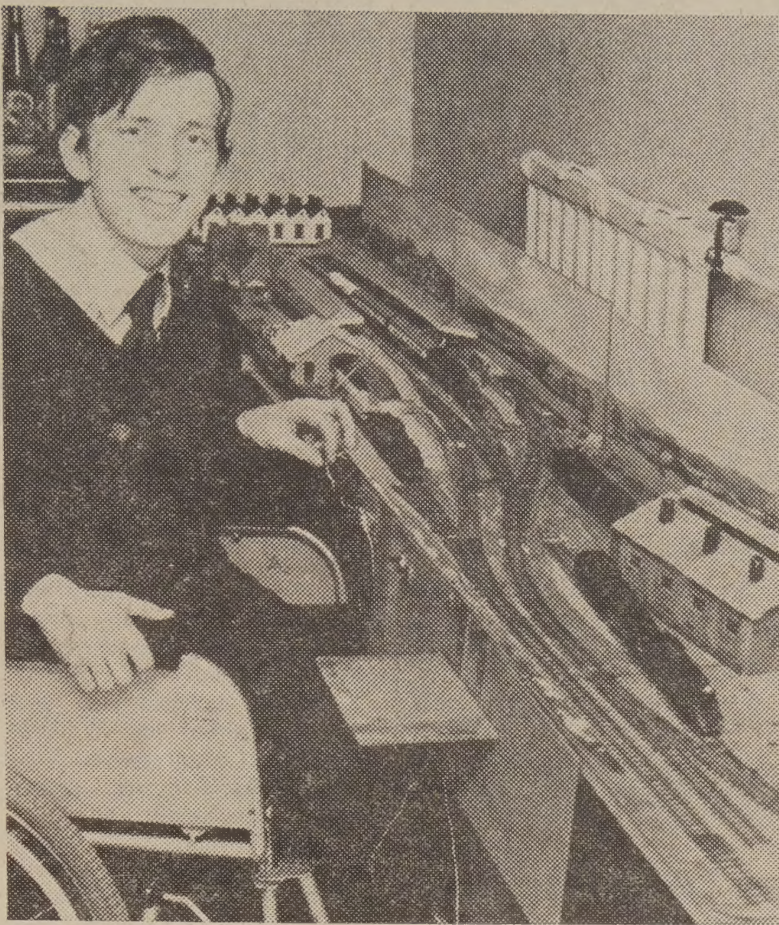
ONE of the pioneers of The Spastics Society's work in Wales has died. He was Mr Bill Paton, who was one of the Society's most dedicated and energetic supporters.

Readers of Spastics News will know Mr Paton, who was 68, for his Window on Wales column. Sadly, his last feature is on page 4.

It is symbolic of his enthusiasm for the Society that he was working on the column on the night before he died. He later went to a meeting of his local group, remaining there until 10.30.

He died early on Tuesday, March 23.

Mr Paton had a spastic son,



JOHN O'DELL with an entire railroad system at his fingertips.

Picture by courtesy of East Kent Mercury.

## His railway is run on model lines

BRITISH Rail may be in a mess. But there's a railway system at the Society's Roman House, at Basingstoke, which is going at full steam ahead.

It's owned and operated by John O'Dell, 22, a resident there who is simply loco about locos. Especially the model variety.

John has built and operated several fascinating and authentic track layouts. Not only that, he gives lectures, slide shows and exhibitions of his model railways as well.

In October he formed a local group of the Three Millimetre Society, which concentrates on 3mm scale models. This scale has been out of commercial production more than 10 years, and the society produces its own kits.

'I think my biggest achievement in this field has been my scratch-built Somerset and Dorset Seven "F", said John.

'I have 50 locomotives in my collection, most of which are kit-built, and a vast assortment of rolling stock.

'My current project is to build a working model of Evercreech Junction, which was half way between Bath and Bournemouth on the old

Somerset and Dorset line. I hope to recreate the working atmosphere of the line in miniature.'

John has staged exhibitions of his models all over the country. He travels in his Invacar.

He is a member of the Somerset and Dorset railway circle which was formed to maintain an interest in this railway. And he is Secretary of Basingstoke and North Hants Model Railway Society.

## THE DAY DAD DROPPED IN...

WHAT a surprise for Miranda Curtis, a resident pupil at the Society's Irton Hall School, in Cumberland. Her father literally dropped in out of the sky for a visit.

Major Curtis was on a navigational training exercise in the Lake District, in a helicopter piloted by his sergeant, Tony Davis. Since he was passing by, it made sense to pop down for a visit.

## They will have homes and not hospital wards

A CENTRE which will bring new hope and opportunities for severely physically and mentally handicapped children, is being opened in Manchester this month.

It is Lancaster Court, which will be a home to 24 children, many of whom would otherwise have been sent to live in a subnormality hospital. The Centre—which has cost the Society £214,000—is being opened by the Minister for the Handicapped, Mr Alfred Morris, on Friday, April 9.

Lancaster Court has been in operation since last summer when it was handed over to Manchester Corporation. The authority provided the site and £10,000 towards the cost.

It's all part of the Society's policy of co-operating with local authorities in the pro-

vision of much needed centres for handicapped people.

The new hostel will house 24 children of school age, together with the staff. There are four houses each accommodating six children. The idea is to break the hostel up into small units to foster a family atmosphere.

The houses are all inter-linked, and there are communal play areas.

A similar project has been built at Eastbourne, but this has not been officially opened as yet. Although the concept behind the two centres is the same they differ in structure, and the Eastbourne hostel has three houses, each for eight children.

The southern hostel is in the midst of a housing estate, and the Manchester one is close to a residential area. It is hoped this will encourage integration.



## Here's a sharp lad

FENCING enthusiast Russell Richardson was by no means foiled by a competition set by the York and District Spastics Group. He was asked to find a Latin motto with the initials AVT, and rapier sharp he quickly came up with audi vide tace.

Translated to English, that's 'I hear, I see, I am silent.' But when Russell heard that the prize was a dinner for two, he saw his opportunity and spoke up.

Before long he had sold the prize to his parents, and raised enough money to buy a new epee. 'Russell loves fencing,' said his mother, Mrs Kathleen Richardson. 'He was quite happy to give up his meal for the sake of new equipment.'

Picture of Russell by courtesy of Yorks Evening Post.

## Welsh dragon finds new home in the House of Commons

SPASTICS NEWS told the story in February of the way the spastic workers at the Sully Work Centre, Glamorgan, were making beautiful Welsh dragons to attract the most discerning of tourists. They got the idea from a remark by Prince Charles that Britain's tourist trade only offered 'shoddy' trinkets to visitors.

The high quality of the dragons, each individually sculpted and taking about seven hours to make, has been recognised, and now five of the workers at Sully are travelling to the House of Commons to present a dragon to the Speaker, Mr George Thomas, who is MP for Cardiff West.

The spastic workers making the presentation in the Speaker's Room at the House of Commons on March 31 were Lyn Smith, Jill Richards, Allan Symonds, Peter Stevenson and Brian Roberts. They were accompanied by two instructors, Trevor Smith and Diane Richards.

Said Ross Richards, manager of the Sully Work Centre: 'The dragons mark a great step forward for the work centre. They are designed to be sold to discerning visitors to Wales because we believe they make a very worthwhile memento.'

The Sully Work Centre employs 53 handicapped people, aged from 16 years to 60 years. A group of 20 is involved with the production of the dragon.

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do

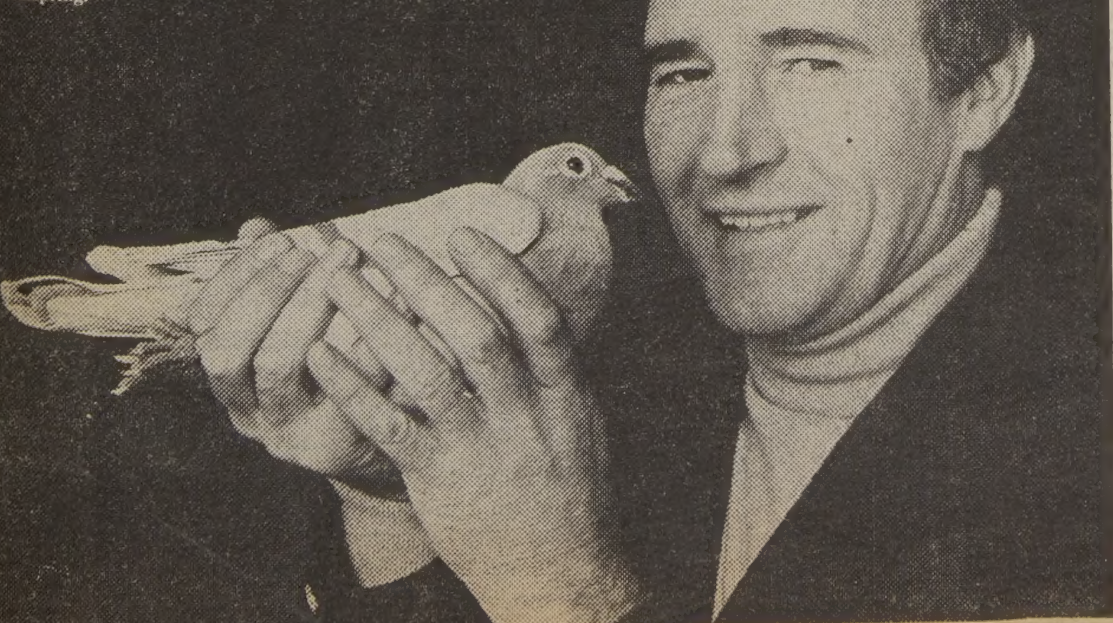


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BIG Mal, the ebullient manager of FA Cup hopefuls Crystal Palace, has signed on a new winger. And both have that glint in their eyes, which suggests that their minds are set on winning big shiny silver trophies. Both Mr Malcolm Allison and the pigeon have a common goal—to raise money for spastics. For Mal was photographed holding the bird to boost the Society's tenth annual pigeon auction, where bidders competed to buy one of her future offspring.





## Cheque for Edinburgh's Trinity fund

EVERY year since 1955, an informal committee of Edinburgh ladies have organised a ball in aid of various local and national charities. Their first ball was in aid of Scottish spastics and it raised £690.

Now, once again, the ball has been held in aid of spastics, specifically for the new Trinity Centre in Edinburgh, and the sum raised was £2,200. The cheque was handed over by Mrs D. C. Jackson, chairman of the committee, to Mr Ernest Herrald, chairman of the Trinity Appeal Committee, at a recent ceremony at Westerlea School for Spastics, Springlands, Perth.



PICTURED with some of the children of Westerlea School are (left to right) Mrs J. Millar, daughter-in-law of the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, who is Patron of the Trinity Appeal; Mrs Jackson; Mr R. L. Learmonth, Appeals Organiser for the Scottish Council for Spastics; Mr Herrald and Mrs D. Fulton, treasurer of the Ball committee.

## Director's view on sex problems of handicapped

PARENTS should be given early counselling to teach them how to cope with the sexual education and the sexual longings of their handicapped adolescent children, said Mr James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, speaking at the Royal Society of Health's symposium on 'The sexual problems of the disabled,' at Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, March 25.

At present, many parents of handicapped children refused to face the fact that their dependent children were growing into adulthood, and ignored the onset of an interest in sex. Yet handicapped adolescents had the right to as much information and education about sex as their able-bodied counterparts.

Many handicapped young people were lonely and without many friends with whom to discuss their awakening interest in sex. They were sometimes confused and frightened by quite normal adolescent feelings and urges. Because of the head-in-sand attitude of their parents, or of those caring for them, they lacked the opportunity and the information to explore, or to learn about their own bodies.

Yet today more and more handicapped people were marrying or planning marriage. This made their access to sexual knowledge doubly important. Sometimes the

severity of handicap would render complete sexual fulfilment very difficult, yet it was still possible for partial satisfaction to be achieved providing practical information about techniques and the wide variety of ways of achieving sexual pleasure were made available to them.

It was particularly important to help handicapped people to attain a satisfying emotional relationship with the opposite sex. Often, because of the narrowness of their experience of life, they were immature for their age and needed help to widen their awareness of the importance of sharing, tenderness and compassion in a meaningful relationship.

To achieve this, much more understanding in residential institutions and from parents needed to be given to handicapped adolescents. They needed tact and sensitivity from those caring for them.

## 'Do cows lay bottles of milk?' question needs serious answer

'DO cows lay bottles of milk?' was the arresting title of an Australian film starring 60 spastic children which was premiered at the International Cerebral Palsy Society Conference held at University College, Oxford, from Sunday, March 28, to Friday, April 2.

One hundred and thirty-five delegates from 11 countries, including the USA, India, Australia, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Hong Kong and Nigeria attended. Participants included community paediatricians, psychologists, therapists, local authority administrators, heads of schools and practising teachers. The theme of the conference was 'Planning better learning for children with neurological impairment.'

The film's title derives from a spastic child who asks the question 'Do cows lay bottles of milk?' after seeing a hen

lay an egg on a farm, which demonstrates the lack of experience of most handicapped children.

The object of the film is to show that because children are handicapped they are unable to explore their environment in the way that able bodied children do. This inability results in great developmental lags which must be overcome in school curricula and programming.

Shots of the handicapped children doing household chores like ironing, sewing, peeling vegetables, cooking and washing up are seen, together with other 'survival skills' like using the telephone, looking through the want ads for a job, filling in forms, researching in the library, shopping, banking, using transport and getting across the road safely.

Subjects under discussion at the conference included 'the educational structure helpful to the handicapped child integrated with healthy children,' 'the contribution of linguists to the teaching of the handicapped child,' 'learning problems arising from hearing disorders,' 'the neurological and learning problems of the educationally subnormal child,' and 'preparation for adulthood; the impli-

cations of a survey of recent school leavers attending work centres.'

The teaching problems associated with four groups of handicapped children were also discussed in depth during the conference. These groups are the educationally subnormal quadriplegia with no speech and hand difficulties; the hemiplegic with hidden learning difficulties; the autistic with no speech and with language problems, and the autistic child with severe behaviour problems.

## Nurses protest at our view of ward

AS Charge Nurses of Ward MCI at St Lawrence's Hospital, which was the subject of your article concerning 'Joey' in Spastics News, March '76, we feel compelled to make a protest to your description of the ward.

It was referred to as a drab, uninspiring ward, with over 40 patients, having uniform iron bedsteads lined up in regimental rows, too close for comfort.

We would like to point out that the exact number of patients is 40, and that if the ward struck you as being drab and uninspiring, then you could have no idea of the changes that have taken place in just the last few years.

You do not mention the gaily papered walls; the brightly painted woodwork, the modern heating and lighting, the colourful pictures all around the walls, the new personal lockers between each bed. You also do not tell us how you would fit 40 beds in the ward other than in 'regimental lines.'

Most important of all, Mr Cook, you did not once refer to the amount of work that is put into the general appearance of ward MCI which, incidentally, has to cope with 24 permanent wheelchairs, four battery powered chairs, and four walking aids. In spite of this, our domestic workers do take a pride in their ward, as

we take a pride in what we have achieved so far.

We strongly feel that this part of your article can only do a disservice to this particular branch of the nursing profession unless it is rectified in the next issue of Spastics News.

R. M. Atkins,  
St Lawrence's Hospital,  
Caterham,  
Surrey.

I must emphasise that no criticism of the nursing staff was either intended or implied. I have the greatest respect and admiration for their work.

My criticism was directed solely at the Government for providing insufficient resources for the radical improvements so necessary in the care of the mentally handicapped.

P.C.

## Her pen pals

HELLO again, Spastics News. A few months ago you published my request for a pen friend. Thank you for doing this. As a result I am now writing to several people. So could you please stop publication of my request.

My thanks to everyone who has written. The letters were most interesting and I am sorry that I have not answered them all. It hasn't been possible to answer every one. Lavourne Service, Rattray-Wood House, 4-45 Lower Malvern Road, East Malvern.

## Minister could help

REFERRING to the article 'Minister encourages disabled to claim the lot,' I quite agree they should be made aware of what is available for them.

Surely, though, this is a job that the minister could give a great deal of help in. It is not enough to have benefits folders stuck up in a local post office

## LETTERS

where a lot of disabled are unable to find them.

Any literature should surely be sent direct, with an advisory note to say where people can get help explaining the leaflets to them. This could easily be done, as questionnaires are being put through doors to find out how many disabled there are, in any given vicinity, so all names and addresses could be easily obtainable from area officers.

The pamphlet, 'Help for the Disabled,' distributed by Social Services is, to say the least, very misleading, and needs explaining to each individual. J. Matthews, 200 Priory Road, Hastings, East Sussex.

## Taunton success

ALTHOUGH it has been formed little more than a year, the Taunton Deane branch of Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association is already proving a success.

First off the branch raised £100 for the parent group. Now it has donated two items to the Taunton Toy Library, which caters for handicapped children.

The toys cost more than £50. One is a prototype hand propelled car. The other a large rocker. They were handed over by branch Chairman Mr James Curtis.

## Your offers and wants

MAY, part of June and September 5-6 berth caravans at either Rockley Sands, Poole, or Holton Heath, Sandford. — Inquiries direct to Mrs W. Stephenson, 2 Ashling Close, Charminster, Bournemouth. Tel: 54645.

PLYMOUTH and South West Devon Spastics Association offer a Bedford 25 cwt Utilabus, finished white, first registered August 25, 1971, registration number AKM 985K, licensed to end April. Offers to: Mrs M. C. Roberts, 16 Edgumbe Park Road, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4NL. Tel Plymouth 65377.

FOR sale: One Newton wheelchair, collapsible, maximum width 25in, seat width 15½in, weight 26lb. Must be pushed by attendant. Perfect condition, £60. (Price new, £95.70). ONE E & J wheelchair, collapsible, slightly larger and heavier than Newton chair. Must be pushed by attendant. Perfect condition, £40 (cost new £67.40). Tel: Mrs E. Wittenberg, evenings and weekends 01-560 7916.

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FOR sale: Knitmaster 321 Automatic. £60. Bought for £100 in 1974 and used only twice. Please contact Mrs V. Everton, Administrative Assistant, Aids and Equipment, 16, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1 (01-387 9571).

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## Farewell message from Anne

I WAS very pleased with Anne Plummer's story about me published in your February issue. I should also like to say thank you for the lovely party which Miss Morgan arranged for my retirement. I must say it was nice to see all the old residents and friends. It was a very memorable evening.

Goodbye—I shall miss everyone.

Anne Harrington, Housekeeper, Thornton Heath Hostel.



# SEWING A FINE SEAM... LIVING A FREE LIFE



WITH a pattern book by her side, Elizabeth Mason embroiders babies' feelers. Like the other young women in these pictures, Elizabeth is spastic, but the Grange employs and trains people with all types of disability.

IN these days of synthetic fibres and mass-produced clothes, high quality needlework is becoming increasingly rare. But at a country house in Surrey the old traditions of hand embroidery and dress-making with the individual touch are still very much alive.

The Grange, at Bookham, near Leatherhead, is a training centre and sheltered workshop for disabled women with an aptitude for sewing. It started life nearly 50 years ago as a school of needlework for the disabled in Leicester. The school moved to Bookham in 1938 and has continued to expand its activities.

The centre caters for all types of disability including, at present, about nine cerebral palsied people. It is mainly residential but a

few girls living in the area attend daily. Many of the residents have no homes.

Although training can be started at the age of 15, most of the girls do not come straight from school but after several unsuccessful attempts to find work. There are usually about 15 girls in training at any one time and 30 sheltered workshop employees.

## The stairs

Trainees live in the main building which dates from the early years of this century. There are both single and double rooms, many of which are at ground-floor level, but the more mobile are accommodated on the first floor so that they do not lose the ability to go up and down stairs. The chief goal of the training programme is to find open employment, but where this is not possible, the girls are transferred to the sheltered workshop at the centre, which is approved by the Department of Employment.

Once trained, the girls are

given the opportunity to move into self-contained flats in 'family groups' of five, six or seven where they can lead independent lives. The rooms in the flats are spacious to allow for wheelchairs, but there are no obvious disability aids. This is the girls' own choice—their view is that if they begin to rely on special aids and adaptations they will find it difficult to cope with life in the outside world. The rooms are cleaned and the main meal is provided in the central dining rooms, but otherwise the flat dwellers do everything for themselves. They prepare their own breakfast and evening meal, plus cups of tea or coffee whenever required.

They can entertain visiting friends or relatives and there are no restrictions on their spare-time movements outside the centre. 'Apart from the common courtesy of letting your flat mates know that you'll be out for supper,' as one of the residents put it.

The single-storey block of flats, opened in 1963 by the then Duchess of Gloucester (now Princess Alice), is arranged on three sides of a courtyard and the lay-out of each is slightly different so as to break down the sense of uniformity. They all have telephones, both external and internal, for summoning staff in case of emergency.

## Visiting

The front doors are linked by a covered way to keep off the rain while visiting neighbours and this extends to the workshop entrances. Each flat has three or four bedrooms, both single and double.

'You'd think everybody would want a single room,' said Miss Jean Cram, the Principal, 'But it's surprising how many people ask to share with friends, especially if they've come from residential schools or been used to sharing with a sister.'

Miss Cram, who has been at

the Grange for 20 years, insists that the girls lead their own lives as much as possible.

'When I first came here, although it was quite a nice atmosphere, it was very much a matter of Us and Them' she said. 'The girls would have little secrets and grumbles apart from the staff, but I don't think there's much of that now. The staff, trainees and workers meet more on an equal footing.'

An authoritative manner on the part of the staff would hardly be appropriate as some of the residents are now middle-aged and the 'oldest inhabitant' has been at the centre for 29 years. However, Miss Cram recalled with amusement a conference she attended in London recently.

## 'Your girls'

'They said: "You must call all the residents Miss So-and-So and refer to them as these ladies." But when I asked the girls what they thought about it they said, "Please go on using our first names and calling us your girls. It gives us a sense of belonging".'

When a new building is being designed Miss Cram makes a point of seeing that windows of staff rooms do not overlook those of the residents so that the latter do not feel that somebody is forever checking up on their activities.

Local organisations sometimes come to give film shows and other entertainments at the Grange, but Miss Cram prefers the residents to look outside the centre for their spare-time activities. Some of the women go to evening classes, others are closely involved in church work or the local drama group.

'On the whole we don't get the type who spends all her evenings in the pub,' said Miss Cram, 'but, of course, we wouldn't mind if that was what they wanted to do.'

There are five separate workshops and two central dining rooms at the Grange so that trainees and employees have plenty of opportunity to mix.

## New

'If a girl has spent her working hours with one group of people and sat at table with another group, it gives her something new to talk about when she sees her flat mates in the evening,' said Miss Cram.

There is also a stimulating variety of interest in the different types of needlework carried out at the Grange. The centre runs its own dress-making business, providing stylish ladies' clothes to order. It also produces lingerie, apron-and-oven-glove sets, soft toys and children's clothes. Some of the little girls' dresses have exquisite smocking nine inches deep. Church work is also undertaken and I saw one



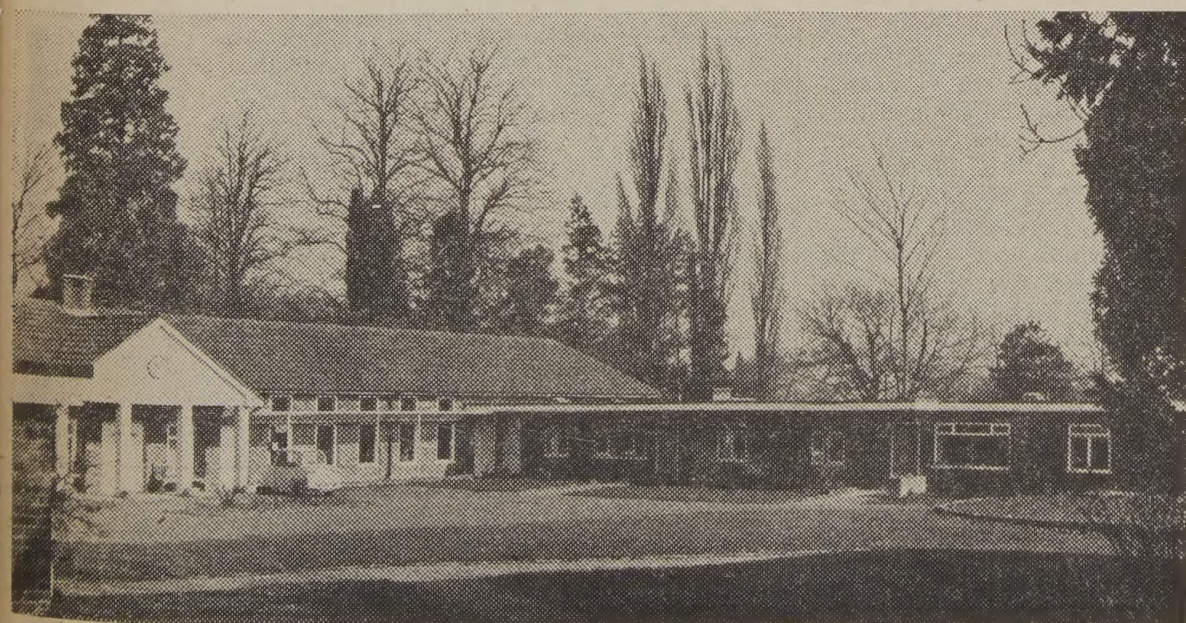
NEEDLEWORK finished for the day, Aurelia Dans takes her turn at cooking supper in the flat which she shares with a group of fellow-workers.



IN a sunny corner of the workshop, Betty Cornwell adds the finishing touches to a child's smocked dress.



BEDMAKING is a tedious but necessary chore. All the flats in the block have both single and double rooms.



THIS modern block at the Grange was opened in 1963. The building left, with portico, houses the Sheltered Workshop, and on the right is a row of self-contained flats where employees live in groups of five, six or seven. Another row of flats is out of the picture on the left.

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## WINDOW ON WALES by Bill Paton

# Speech therapy breakthrough at Swansea

TREATMENT has always been regarded as of primary importance where spastics are concerned and the Swansea group have always been active campaigners in this field. Indeed for years they have been pressing the local authority for the services of a speech therapist, even on a part-time basis, without any success.

A shortage of these qualified people had not helped, but at long last they have achieved a breakthrough and have introduced part-time speech therapy sessions at their Longfields centre under Mrs Moses. A number of young people are making the most of this therapy for which the group are meeting the entire cost out of their own funds.

The move has been welcomed by parents and trainees. Certainly only good can come of this step in the right direction by a group which has always prided itself in providing the best for those under their care.

Appeals organiser Ken Thomas has given much of his time over the years to organising annual trips to popular resorts for spastics, their parents and friends.

In July he is taking 10 spastics to Scarborough, which will be followed by another week in Blackpool in September. Through his own efforts Ken has seen to it that the spastics themselves get a free holiday but parents meet their own cost. And the entertainment angle gets special attention.

The group's annual Flag Day, which last year passed the four-figure mark financially for the first time, is to be held on Saturday, August 21, while the annual fete, which also brings in over £1,000, has been fixed for Saturday, June 12.

The Ladies Guild have also set themselves a busy programme of coffee evenings, Easter bonnet parades and fashion shows to swell the funds. Chairman Nesta Moore was handed a useful cheque by the Pontardulais Rugby Club women's committee, while the Killay Townswomen's Guild presented a cheque for £110 and Mrs Dilys Lewis addressed a Gowerton women's group.

## New group launched

Some 18 members of the steering committee attended a meeting at Aberaeron to launch a new group which was given the title of 'The Ceredigion Society for the Welfare of Handicapped People.'

They are to seek affiliation to The Spastics Society.

Colwyn Bay's new charity shop was opened recently and got off to a flying start. Takings on the first day were £75, which the group considered highly satisfactory.

## From Rhodesia to Cardiff

A Rhodesian, Jim Andrew, has become a member of the Cardiff group, who have already appointed him on their executive committee.

One of Jim's initial tasks was to represent the group at the Press Seminar held at Castle Priory. SRO Emylyn Davies and Regional Officer John Roberts were also there. Jim has a spastic son Peter and has not long settled in this country.

A cheque for £100 was a welcome gift to the Cardiff members. It was presented by Mrs Mary Roberts, supervisor of the day centre at Cardiff, who also runs a keep fit class every week. It was the class's contribution to the group.

A coffee morning at the Mansion House where the Lady Mayoress entertained the members and friends, realised £90, while a 10-mile sponsored walk raised £216—both splendid efforts.

## Even a big firm can have a warm heart

The trainees of the Monmouthshire Spastics Workshop recently travelled 60 miles from Cwmbran to Swansea to see Ryan Davies appearing in pantomime. A major difficulty arose when they thought about where to eat as there are not many restaurants in Swansea that can cope with a party of 50 people.

The cafeteria manageress of Littlewoods then stepped into the breach, and offered the group waitress service, and promised to see that the chairs would be removed from the tables so that the wheelchairs could be taken right up to the table.

An excellent meal was enjoyed by all, and shows what can be done with the goodwill of large firms. The group are very grateful to Margaret Duffy, the cafe manageress, for all the trouble she took to accommodate the party.

Well known comedian Stan Stennett was on stage for 90 minutes in a cabaret and dance organised by the Fairwater Leisure Centre, Cwmbran. It was a successful venture from which the Cwmbran Work Centre benefited.

At a recent committee meeting of the Rhuddlan and Delyn group, Mr J. O. Edwards, a committee member, offered to call on all spastics considered to be eligible for the Mobility Allowance and give help and advice in filling in the application forms.

Following a talk given by John Roberts at the Bishop Vaughan RC School, Swansea, three of the fifth formers decided that they would like to help the spastic trainees at Longfields.

The three pupils, David Burns, Mirella Cavallucci and Lesley Guanno, decided to hold a disco, and promptly went to town, printed tickets and set about selling them.

The disco made a profit of £40 and this amount has been handed to the Longfields Centre. The group are very grateful to the youngsters for this marvellous spontaneous gesture, and they have been invited to visit Longfields to see what goes on for themselves.

STAFF of the South Western Water Authority took part in a 20-mile sponsored walk around Burrator Reservoir. They raised over £300

## Welsh personalities The English pioneer

AN Englishman can take a large slice of credit for pioneering the Spastic movement in South Wales. He is Mr S. P. Northam, Birmingham born and former secretary-treasurer of the Cardiff and District Spastics Association.

After coming to Cardiff in 1950, Phil Northam laid the foundation of a local group and at the same time sparked off interest in other areas.

Father of three sons, the eldest, John, a spastic, Phil, after a chance meeting with Mr T. W. E. Thomas—later to become chairman of the



Mr S. P. Northam

Cardiff group—another parent of a spastic, set the wheels in motion. His contacts with the Midlands Spastic Association, of which he was a member from 1948, proved invaluable.

The inaugural meeting of 14 parents was chaired by Mr George Thomas, MP, now Speaker of the House of Commons.

Further meetings with the Ministry of Education, and the MoH for Cardiff were followed by the first money raising venture—a house-to-house collection which raised £500 and was handed to the National Spastics Society—then in its infancy.

Parents from a wide area contacted Mr Northam and this led to the formation of Wales' second group—Swansea—which Phil addressed at the inaugural meeting. Later he succeeded Mr T. W. E. Thomas as a member of the executive committee of the National Spastics Society, and was instrumental in pressing successfully the claims of Wales for a residential school for spastics which became a reality in 1955 with the establishment of Craig-y-Parc.

Making provision for the so-called 'ineducable' spastic was his next objective. This, too, was achieved, and happily many children progressed from here to ordinary day school.

Looking back over 25 years Phil Northam provided hope and inspiration to parents of spastics and has gradually seen the accomplishment of his objective to ensure that spastics of school age were adequately provided for and that those over school age not otherwise catered for have a place of their own.

### THE END

AS you will have seen on the front page, our 'Window on Wales' writer Mr Bill Paton, MBE, has died, and this is his last column after a long and distinguished career in journalism. We hope that local groups in Wales will carry on Mr Paton's pioneering work by continuing to supply us with news items from the Principality. It would be a pity if Bill's sterling work in ensuring that the activities for spastics in Wales were brought to a wider public is not continued—THE EDITOR.



WHO'S for a cuppa? Shirley Hutchinson puts the kettle on in the spacious modern kitchen of her flat. The girls prepare all their own food except the main meal of the day, which is provided in the central dining-room.

## Sewing a fine seam...

Cont from Page 3

woman renewing a worn-out altar cloth. With infinite patience she was transferring a circular piece of the original embroidery to new fabric and copying the design round the edge in gold thread.

Most impressive is, perhaps, the Grange's own hand-embroidery, many of the designs copied from centuries-old traditional patterns. These needlewomen work from a paper pattern, achieving the correct proportions by counting threads in the fabric. They would scorn the use of iron-on

transfers for marking the design on the material. This embroidery, with its skilful blending of colours, is used mainly on tablecloths, tray-cloths and napkins, but smaller items such as spectacle-cases, needle holders and pin-cushions were also on display.

Orders taken in the work-rooms come from individuals rather than firms, but a grand sale is held at the Grange every year in November which attracts Christmas shoppers from miles around. The centre also has frequent visitors—either organised groups such as Women's Institutes or casual passers-by. Some of the latter come from as far away as Canada or America and few leave without buying some cherished sample of traditional British craftsmanship.

ANNE PLUMMER

## Help for Scotland's ambitious project

THE selfless generosity of the Border Spastics Association was praised at a ceremony in Perth when their chairman, Mrs Daphne Mackenzie, MBE, handed over a cheque for £3,500 in aid of the great residential project for the physically handicapped at Upper Springlands, Perth.

Admiral Sir Nigel Henderson, a vice-president of the Scottish Council for Spastics, who received the cheque, said the Association's generosity was an example to everyone, and he was only sad that the late president, Lord Elphinstone, a cousin of HM the Queen, could not have been present.

The Council were deeply grateful to Mrs Mackenzie and her Association as they were to the Gannochy Trust for donating the land and

especially the magnificent gift of £500,000 towards the project. This would eventually house 74 physically handicapped in semi-independent living and many facilities but the first phase—shortly going out to tender—would comprise 24 flats.

It was one of the most ambitious schemes in the country, said Sir Nigel, and would cater for people throughout Scotland. The city of Perth should be proud to have this wonderful scheme within their boundaries and he hoped that local people would become closely associated with it and do everything they could to raise the necessary funds to complete and maintain the scheme.

In her remarks, Mrs Mackenzie said the money had been raised at Kelso Fair last summer with enthusiastic support not only from the Association but the Border Union Agricultural Society who run the Fair, the Local Rotary Club, Round Table, the Army, the Police, British Legion, Kelso Laddies and many other organisations and individuals.

In addition to Sir Nigel and Mrs Mackenzie, those present at the ceremony included Mr Archie McConnochie, Mr G. A. Pollock and Cdr A. Cameron, chairman, vice-chairman and director respectively of the Scottish Council for Spastics, Mr Lachlan Young, chairman of the Perth Appeal Committee, and the project architect, Mr William Day.

## Conference at York

ELECTRONIC aids, integrated housing and toy libraries are among the topics for discussion at the Society's North East Regional Conference. The Conference takes place on Sunday, April 11, at the Physics Lecture Theatre, University of York.

Presiding at the conference will be Mr L. F. Day, Chairman of the North East Regional Co-ordinating Committee.

Speakers will include Mr Roger Jefcoate, Consultant Assessor on Electronic Aids; Mr Geoffrey Arter, Director Top Ten Promotions; Miss Kathy Williams, Administrator of Habinteg Housing Associations Ltd; Mrs Lesley Moreland, Director of the Toy Libraries Associations; and Mr Tony Frank, Assistant Director Regions, The Spastics Society.

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# Visitors to Pool HQ



ABOVE: Recent visitors to Westmorland House, headquarters of the Spastics Pool, were senior regional officers of The Spastics Society who came to Bristol for a meeting with executives and directors of Top Ten Promotions Ltd, the company which runs the Pool. Picture shows Don Cottle, left, executive, with the visitors in the new computer suite at head office. Next to him is Mr Tony Frank, Assistant Director, Regions, of the Society.

BELOW: More visitors to Bristol were a group of collectors from Devon. As it was during a weekday there was quite a lot of activity going on in Westmorland House and they were able to see the various departments in operation. The trip was organised by DV81 Mrs Wilkinson.



PICTURE left: Richard Stainthorpe and his wife smile as they hold their cheque for £3,333.34 which they won on the first dividend of the Spastics Pool. Richard, of Westfield Gardens, Middleton, Tyas, Yorkshire, received his cheque during a supervisors' meeting held at the Sunderland Spastics Centre, Newcastle.

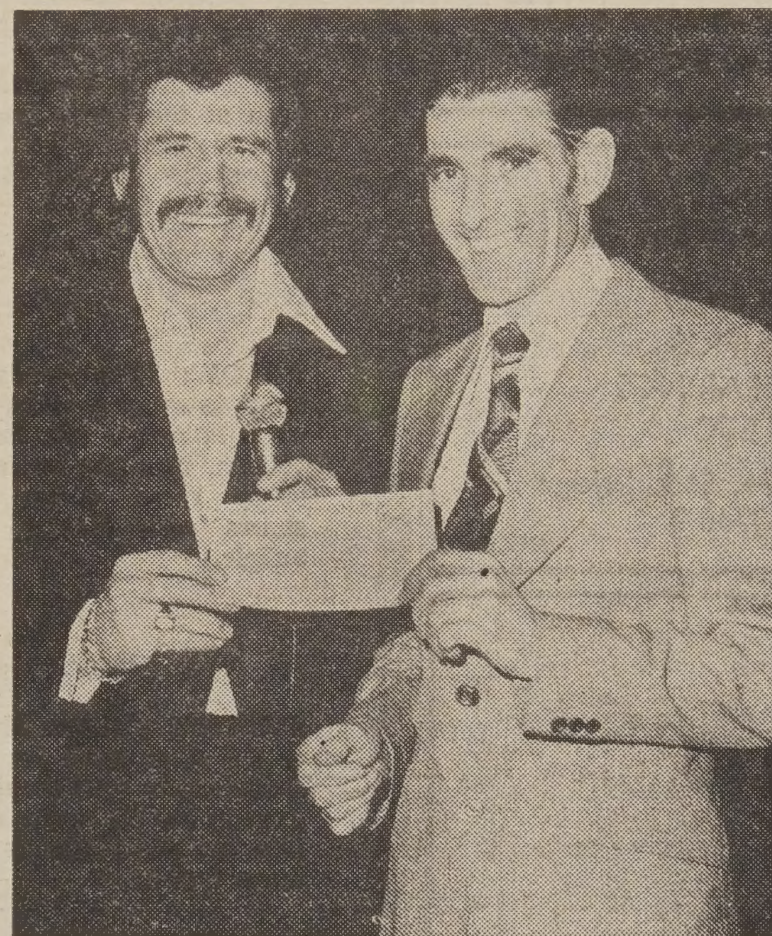
BELOW: Mr H. Liddle, of Grove Way, Dagenham, receives a cheque for £526.32 from Councillor George Broker, Mayor of Dagenham, at a darts meeting at the Abbey Hall, Barking. Also present, from left to right, ES86 Mr S. Summerfield, the area supervisor, and Mr Prior, the local collector.



## News about the Spastics Pool

### Choosing a charmer

MARK WYNTER, Gwyneth Henderson, Dickie Henderson and Arthur Askey pictured judging the Qantas Charm Girl Competition at Westmorland House, together with (standing from left to right), R. J. Laver, Director of Top Ten Promotions, and Alan Pinfold.



COMEDIAN Duggie Kaye hands over a cheque for over £1,111 to Mr J. Smith, of Havenwood Rise, Clifton Estate, Nottingham, at the Talk of the Midlands in Derby. Mr Smith qualified for his share of the first dividend on the Spastics Pool.

Photograph by John Davidson, of Derby.

### Ivy's skill rewarded with medal

A SPECIAL additional prize in the Society's Achievement Award has been presented to Miss Ivy Steele, of Angers House, Liverpool, for her beautiful embroidery.

Miss Steele, aged 60, has lived at Angers House, a residential centre run by the Liverpool Spastics Fellowship, for the past 17 years.

Despite the fact that she can only use her left hand, embroidery is the great joy and pleasure of her life.

She won her special commendation medal after four years of trying. Each year the embroidered tablecloth submitted to the judges got better and better.

In a letter of congratulation, Mr James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, said: 'We were very impressed with the beauty of your embroidery which you have managed to do so cleverly, despite the fact that it has been carried out with difficulty.'

### Toys to help handicapped children

ANNE RICHARDSON, Occupational Therapist at The Spastics Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre, is joint author of a new book on toys for handicapped children. Called, 'I Can Use My Hands,' it lists toys which will help to improve manual dexterity.

For example, ball games, building blocks and wheeled toys will encourage a spastic child to stretch out his hands rather than hold them flexed close to his body.

Hand and eye co-ordination will be helped by such games as pouring from a doll's teapot or threading beads, finger movement by an abacus counting frame or toy typewriter, and pincer grasp by solitaire or sewing cards.

This is a publication which will be extremely useful to parents, therapists and teachers alike.

'I Can Use My Hands,' by Anne Richardson and Alison Wisbeach costs 40p plus 10p postage and packing. It is available from The Toy Libraries Association, Sunley House, 10 Gunthorpe Street, London E1 7RW.

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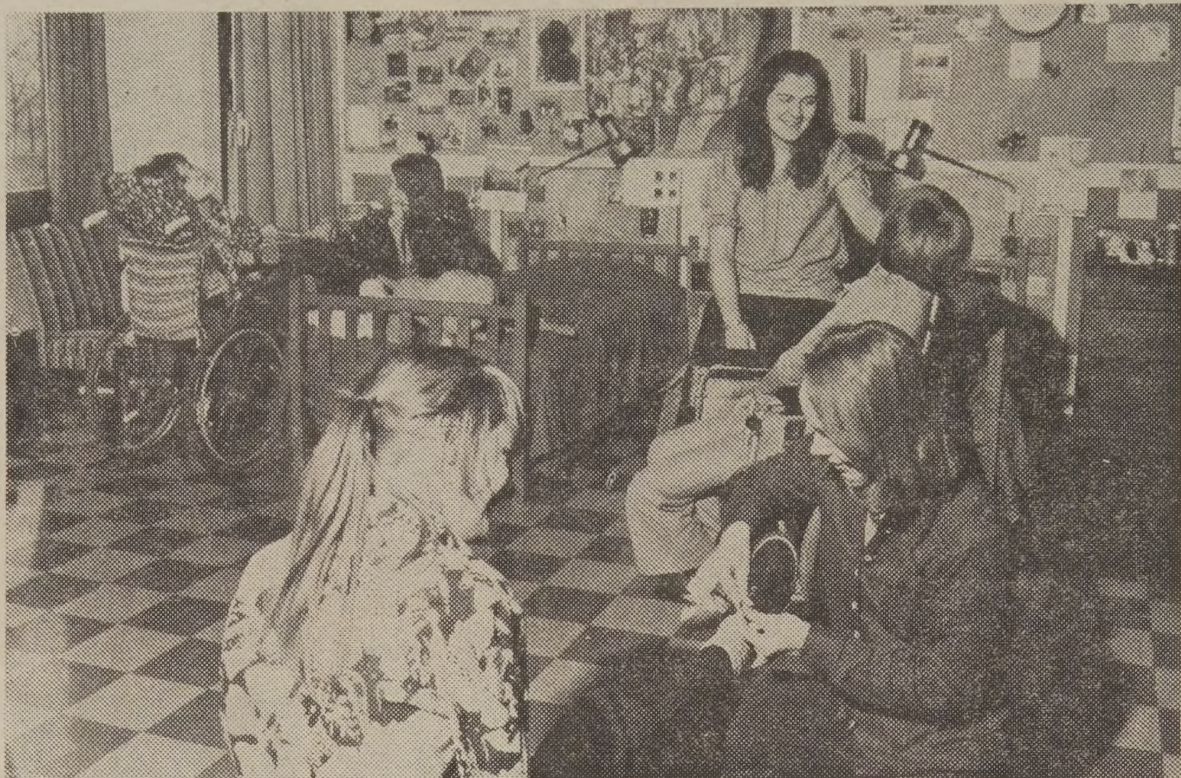
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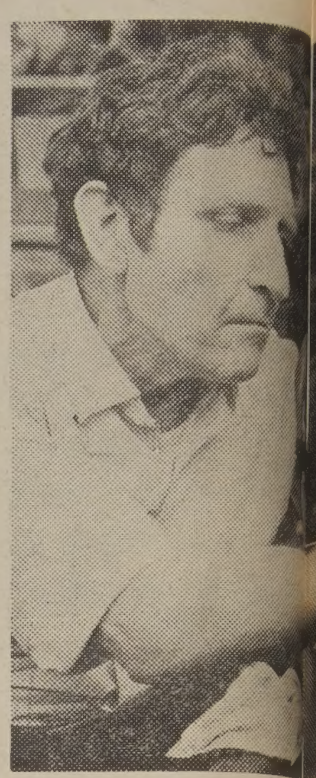
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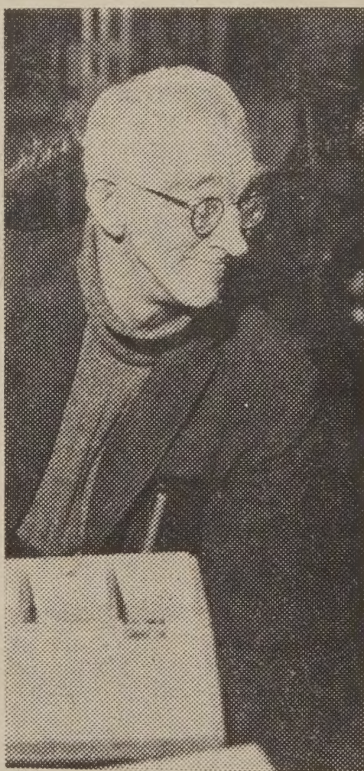


SOME of the foreign students who are employed as helpers at Drummonds enjoy an informal 'get together' with three girls who share the same room at this happy and homely centre for the handicapped.



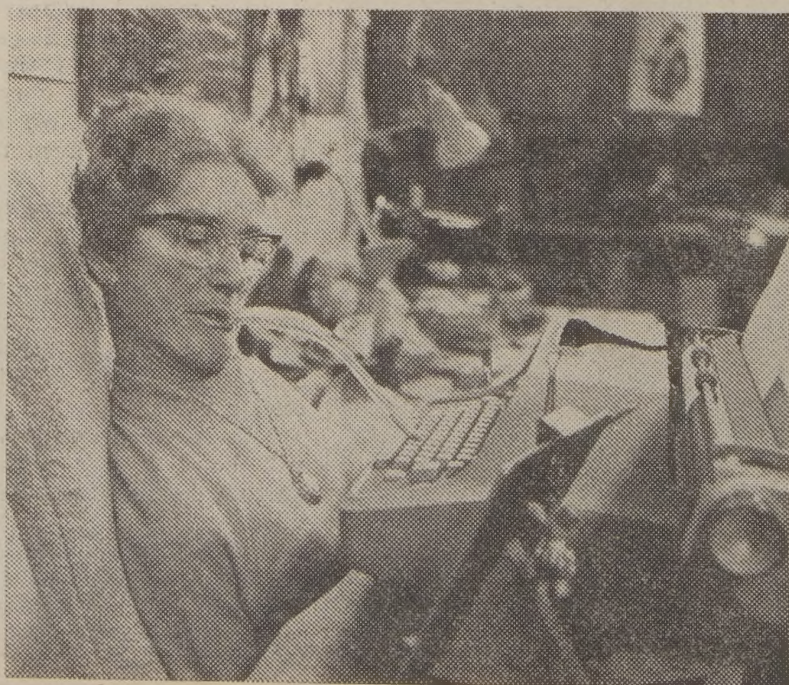
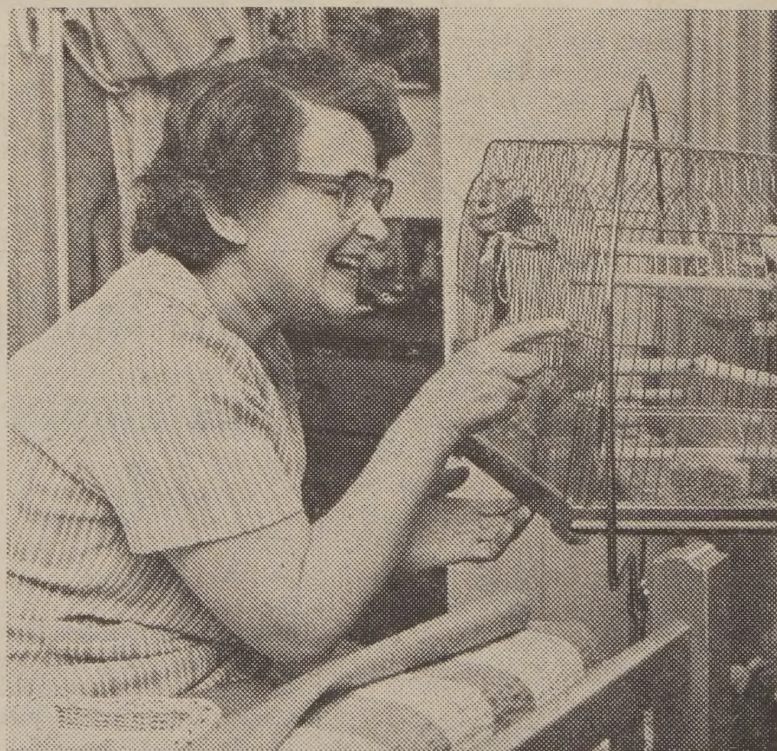
HIGH-class wood turning lathes, and one of the staff, Ernie Barnes.

RIGHT: Ernie Barnes has been at the centre longer than any other resident. He arrived at Prested Hall even before the staff.



BELOW: Drummonds is home in every sense of the word to people like Betty Wilson, who has her own single room which she shares with Bobby her budgie.

BOTTOM picture: Much of the office work for the Drummonds workshops is done by Pat Slate, who despite her disabilities is no mean typist.



# Doing their Drummonds New-style care gives residents independence

'I AM a firm and passionate advocate,' said Raymond Smith, 'of the validity of residential care as a first choice rather than as a last resort. Mr Smith is the warden of Drummonds, which as a community is The Spastics Society's oldest adult residential centre. This year it celebrates its 21st anniversary.

'People tend to play down the importance of residential care these days,' he said. 'But I look upon it as the most important aspect of the Society's work.

'Many of our residents will acknowledge that for them life began when they could throw off parental restraints and come to live here. Living at home with parents is all very well. But many parents infantilise and over protect their handicapped offspring. Others reject them.

'Here people can live their own lives—do their own thing. They are free of many of the restrictions which inhibit other people, and they can do the things they want to do.'

Mr Smith believes that perhaps too much emphasis is placed on motivating severely handicapped people to live out in the community. The disadvantages can very often outweigh the advantages.

'For a start you have to be sure that the society into which you are trying to integrate people, is worth joining,' he said. 'I've watched people move out of centres to live in the community. They take on a whole load of problems, and life becomes a struggle.

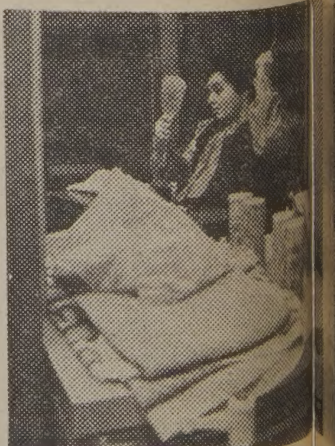
'Most of us spend our lives trying to escape from the everyday problems of living, so that we can get on with

doing the things we enjoy. Here we are pushing handicapped people into the kind of situation most of us are trying to escape from.

'That's not independence. You are more dependent than you are in a centre. Which of us is fully independent, anyway, handicapped or not.'

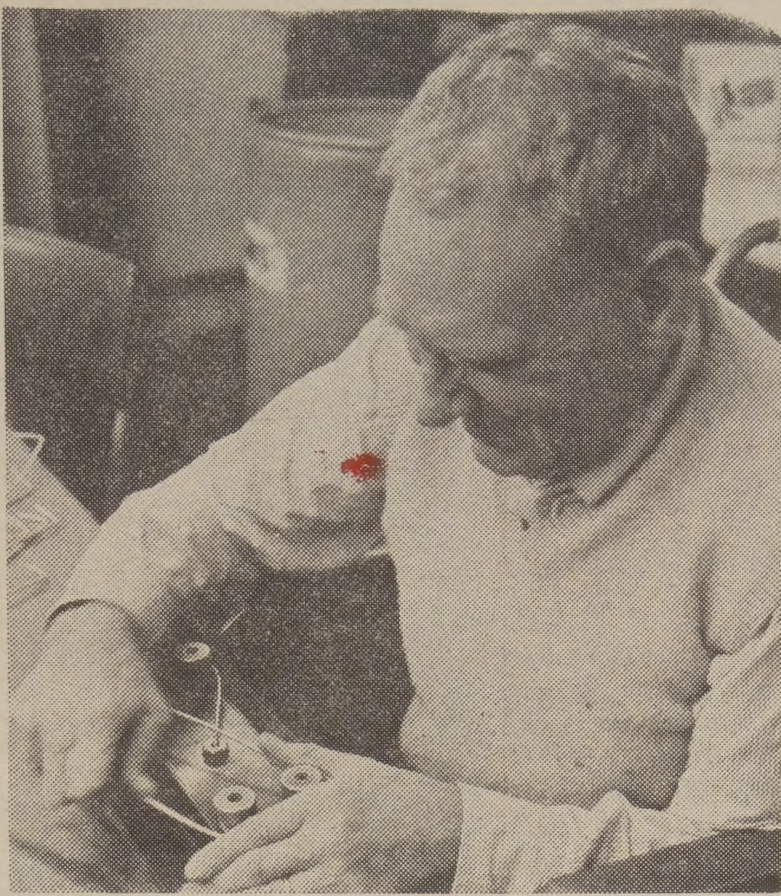
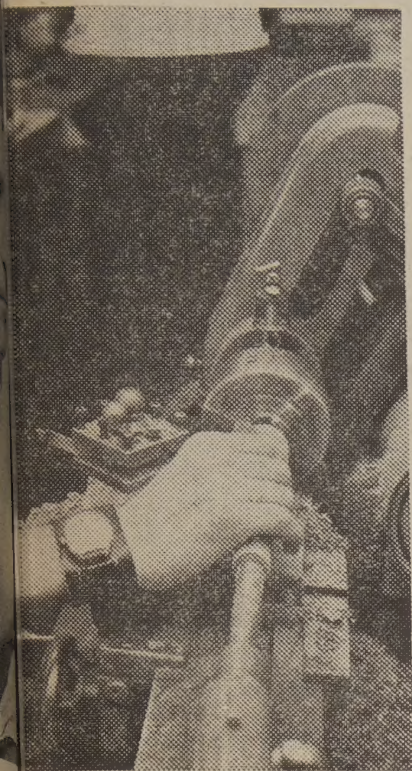
The centre was first opened on New Year's Day 1955 at Prested Hall, a stately mansion on the outskirts of the attractive village of Kelvedon, Essex. The house was offered to the Society at a peppercorn rent for seven years, and the lease was later extended for a further seven.

First of the residents



PAT SHANLEY puts a bit of makeup and gets ready to receive some visitors to the centre.





THE centre has a television lounge. But some residents, like Bill King, prefer to watch in the quiet of their own rooms.

ABOVE: Thousand upon thousand of wire brick ties for the building industry are produced at Drummonds. Here is Michael Humphrey at work.



LEFT: Offcuts from ladies' quilted dressing gowns are cut up to make the stuffing for soft toys manufactured at the centre. Robert Parker was at work on this.

BELOW: More and more people are turning to handicrafts these days. But Pat Rand has been an expert at the loom for some time.



RESIDENTS often make trips outside the centre. But inside they have everything they need—even a juke box. Enjoying the latest hits are, left to right, Harry Stollery, Andrew Williamson, Hazel Maunders, Oriel Cronin and Barbara Marshall.

s produced on the workshop expert workers at this is Cyril

## own thing at

Ernie Barnes, who arrived half an hour before the staff. They turned up to find him sitting on the doorstep.

But about eight or nine of the 51 residents who now live at Drummonds moved into Prested Hall during that first year. And at least two members of staff have been with the centre since its inception.

'Prested Hall was far from ideal physically,' said Mr Smith. 'There were so many levels even on one floor.'

'But it's the people who live in a centre that count. And we built up a very happy little community.'

The first major development was the opening of The Grange in 1959. At first this was conceived as a small unit for older spastics. But as soon as it opened the ideas

were changed and people of all ages lived there, including a girl of 16.

The community has learned to adapt and adjust according to its needs.

'I don't think it's a very good idea to have centres for particular age groups,' said Mr Smith. 'Residents should be of all ages.'

'At one time everyone here was roughly the same age. I began to think that when the time came we would all move across to the graveyard together. Since then we've brought in a lot of younger residents, and it's made the world of difference.'

'We also engage foreign students as staff. They act as a yeast to the community. They keep it bubbling, and bring new ideas and vitality which is a tonic for the residents.'

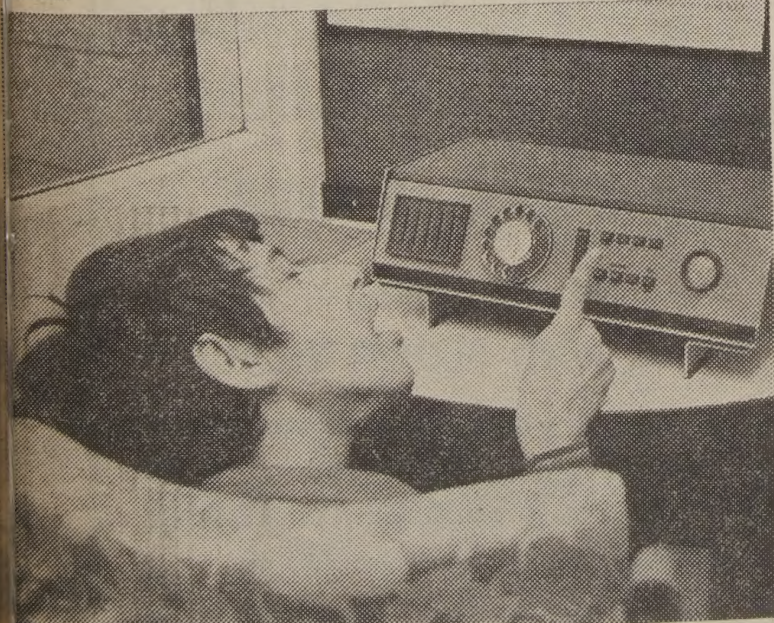
After 14 years at Prested Hall came the move to the spanking-new purpose built centre, Drummonds, at Feering, close by Kelvedon. The centre was built on an attractive site next to the Church and incorporating Feering parsonage, which was painted more than once by Constable.

The move was very much a do-it-yourself affair, with residents helping out. Many of them travelled to their new homes on their tricycles.

It took some time to settle in to the new centre. 'After all there is nothing so dead as a new building,' said Mr Smith. 'You have to create your own

Cont. on Page 8

IN the workshop Peter Bryan works at the clicker press, which cuts out pieces of leather for decorative belts.



ONE of the centre's newest aids is this voice operated telephone demonstrated by John Fletcher. It has a loudspeaker with volume control for hard-of-hearing residents. And there is no fumbling with cumbersome hand sets.

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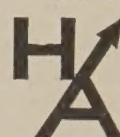
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WORD games on a grand scale at Drummonds. Michael Ledley, left, working with Stephen Symonds in a game which is both educational and fun.

## Independent life at Drummonds

Cont. from Page 7

ambience, and stamp your own identity onto the place.

'But gradually things got better, and it began to feel more like home.'

How has the pattern of residential care changed over the 21 years since the centre was founded? 'Well, in those days we were more paternalistic,' said Mr Smith.

'And the people who joined us then were disproportionately grateful. I suppose the only alternatives they were offered were subnormality hospitals or geriatric wards. This was a new development. They grasped it with both hands.'

'The younger people who came to live here were brought up under the broad umbrella of the welfare state, and the particular umbrella of The Spastics Society. They were more conscious of themselves as people, and aware of their rights.'

'They were certainly not content to sit back and accept the crumbs from the rich man's table.'

'And I think these attitudes brought staff and residents much closer together as equals.'

Raymond Smith came into The Spastics Society through his father-in-law Joe Watson, the first warden at Prested Hall. At first he started doing voluntary work around the centre, and since he was a joiner by trade, this was particularly useful.

In 1959 he joined the Society full time as deputy warden. And when Mr Watson was tragically killed in a car accident, it was natural for him to take over as warden.

'It wasn't an easy thing to do,' he said. 'Joe had built up quite a reputation. But it

helped having someone who knew the centre.'

Since the early beginnings the centre has grown-up in a very real sense. It was never developed to a blue-print, but allowed to develop naturally.

'I suppose the community really came of age when we overcame our first revolution,' said Mr Smith. 'There was an effort by the residents to get shot of me after I sacked my first deputy.'

'I did this because I felt he was giving in to every request regardless of whether it benefited the community as a whole. But there were many who thought the wrong man went at that time.'

'It caused a big upheaval. But we came through it, and I'm sure it was a necessary experience and that we've all come to a much closer understanding because of it.'

'Looking back I would say that our chief value is that we are home to our residents. They can go out in the evening if they want to, or they can just stay at home. It's nice to be able to enjoy one's home.'

'Just as important, Drummonds is a place which can stand the kicks from its own inhabitants.'

Peter Cook

### MBE FOR HER WELFARE WORK

MRS GRACE HALLAM, an Oxford WRVS member, has received the MBE for her voluntary hospital work. Among her many other welfare commitments, she spends two days a week with severely disabled children at the Spastics Day Centre of the Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

## Cash for relatives who care

THE first payments of Invalid Care Allowance — the new benefit for people who cannot work because they have to care for their relatives who are invalids — will be made on July 5, 1976. This was announced on March 22 by Mr Alf Morris, the Minister for the Disabled.

In reply to a Parliamentary Question from Mr Hugh McCartney, Mr Morris said that Regulations setting the starting date had been laid before Parliament, and that claims could be made in advance from April 12.

Invalid Care Allowance is the third major new cash benefit which this Government has now introduced to help disabled people and their families. The others are the Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension and the Mobility Allowance. A fourth new cash benefit — for disabled housewives — is to follow.

The new benefit payable from July 5 will be at the rate of £7.90 a week to people who are unable to work because of the need to care full-time for severely disabled parents or other relatives. Receipt of Invalid Care Allowance will not depend on a national insurance contribution record or a test of a person's means, but the relative being looked after must be in receipt of an Attendance Allowance or Constant Attendance Allowance.

Men and single women will be eligible for Invalid Care Allowance. It will not generally be available to married women, many of whom would be at home and caring for their families in any event.

## The Queen sends birds winging to Society's pigeon auction

— but cash result down this year



THERE was an air of nobility among the flighty birds at the Finsbury Town Hall in London on March 13. For among the pigeons to be auctioned in aid of spastics were two from the Queen.

The Royal racing pigeon lofts are at Sandringham. And it's by no means the first time that Her Majesty has donated birds to The Spastics Society's Annual Pedigree Pigeon Auction, which in the past has raised thousands of pounds for spastics.

This year's event was the tenth. It has come to be regarded as one of the major events in the calendar of pigeon fanciers.

However financially this year's event was not such a success as previous years. Said the Society's Mr Peter Jordan, MBE, who organised the event, 'We raised about £700 from the auction, although proceeds from the draw brought this up to £2,600.'

The target had been £4,000.

The auction was conducted by Mr C. W. Miller, from Wrexham.

ABOVE: Pigeon fanciers from all over Britain inspect the birds before the bidding gets under way.

BELOW: Auctioneer Mr C. W. Miller, left, keeps the bids coming at the Society's 10th annual pigeon auction, helped by Mr Peter Jordan, Head of Appeals Projects.



## £500 grant links him to computer

A WELCOME boost for Geoffrey Busby, 32, of the Society's Oakwood Further Education Centre, at Kelvedon, Essex. His ambition to work as a computer programmer took a big jump forward recently with a grant of £500 from the Employment Service Agency.

The money will go towards a computer terminal, which will give Geoffrey direct access to the main Marconi computer at Great Baddow. At the moment he operates a typewriter and terminal keyboard by tapping them with his nose.

## Wakes Hall friends remember Rosina

ACTRESS Muriel Pavlow, chairman of the Wakes Hall management committee, and former chairman, John Horsley, joined fellow residents at Wakes Hall at a special memorial service for Miss Rosina Hebdon, a resident at the centre for almost eight years, who died after a short illness.

The spastic friends of Rosina were conveyed from Wakes Hall to the picturesque church in the nearby valley for the service which was attended by the Bishop of Colchester, The Rt Rev R. N. Coote, a vice-president of the Friends of Wakes Hall. He

referred to Rosina's life in a special prayer.

In an address, Mr Horsley said Rosina would be sadly missed. Since her arrival at Wakes Hall she had become an example to all. 'Although Rosina was very handicapped she made full use of her life. She took a pride in her appearance and enjoyed reading and television. She rarely missed an opportunity to go out and she was the life and soul of the party,' he said.

He recalled that Rosina had been a member of the ex-Girl Guides' Trefoil Guild and went away with them to camp every year. 'She had a marvellous personality and had many friends all over England, and in fact everywhere she went, Rosina made new friends and was extremely popular,' he said.

Appropriate passages were read by Muriel Pavlow, Mrs Sheila Rawstorne, chief executive of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, which runs the Wakes Hall centre, and Mrs K. Pilgrim, a member of staff, and committee of the Friends of Wakes Hall.

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**ERNIE ROBERTS** (left), last year's winner of the Achievement Award, hands over the cup to **Alyn Haskey**, this year's successful contestant. Looking on are **Mrs Joyce Smith**, a Vice-Chairman of the Society, and **Sir Geoffrey Jackson**, who presented the prizes.

## Second look at the Achievement Award ceremony

**JUST** as Spastics News went to Press last month, the Society's annual Achievement Award presentations were made at a London ceremony. Our last issue brought you pictures and stories about the main winners, but we didn't have space for the pictures of those of the runners-up and other personalities who attended the ceremony after winning through to the final judging.

However, we know you would like to see more about the Achievement Award for this is one of the major events

of the year, not only for the Society, but for anyone who values and admires the quality of courage able to surmount severe handicap.

Just to re-cap. The Achievement Award trophy and £250 cheque was won by **Alyn Haskey**, of York University; **Edward Castle**, of Brockley, London SE, was second, and **Raymond Jordan**, of Monyhull Hospital, Kings Norton, was third. **Steven Foster**, aged 14, of Bridgwater, Somerset, won the director's special prize.

The six runners-up were awarded premium bonds and medals.



**PICTURE** top right: Arriving at Park Crescent for the presentation ceremony at Society headquarters are finalist **Raymond Coulson** and his father from Northampton. Ray cannot walk and has hand and speech difficulties, but he has passed the ordinary driving test and now runs an adapted car. He also handles a cabin cruiser with skill.



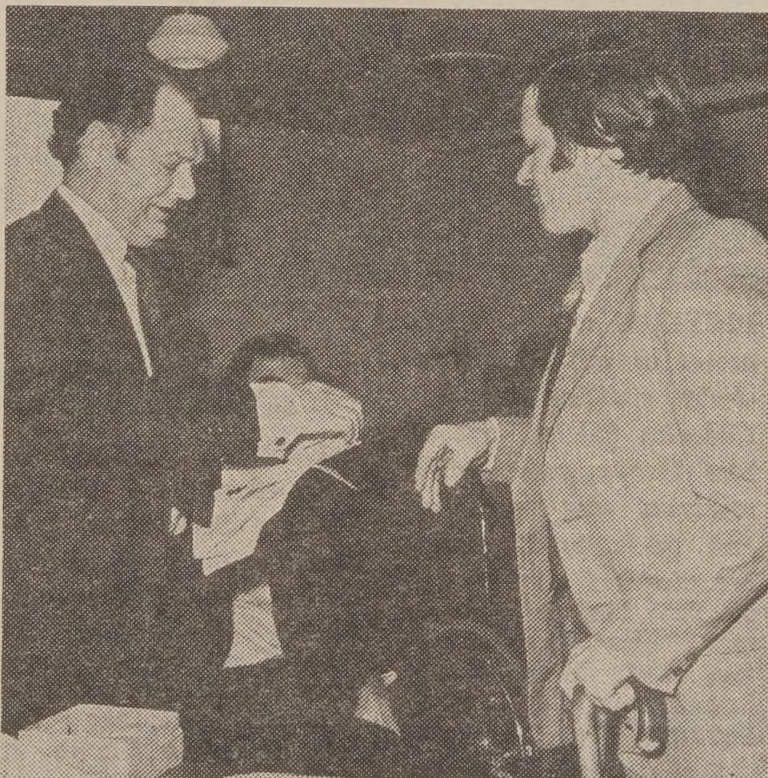
**SIR GEOFFREY JACKSON** congratulates **Robert Pratt**, the only Scottish finalist. Robert works as a gardener in Edinburgh, and has achieved a worthwhile position in life entirely through his own efforts.



**ABOVE:** Mr **Colin Cullimore**, Managing Director of **J. H. Dewhurst**, the firm which donated the prize money for the Award, talks to **Baroness D'Arcy de Knayth**, one of the judges. Lady de Knayth is an ardent campaigner for the disabled in the House of Lords.



**MR ROY LAVER** and **Mr Geoffrey Arter**, standing, Directors of **Top Ten Promotions Ltd** (the Spastics Pool company) are seen with seated, left, **Mr Colin Cullimore** and **Danny Hearn**, who was a member of the judging panel. Mr Hearn, a famous rugby international, broke his back during a match with the All Blacks and now uses a wheelchair.



**JOHN HAWKRIDGE**, one of the six runners-up, receives his Premium Bond prize from **Sir Geoffrey Jackson**. John, who works in a tax office in Leeds, walks with two sticks, yet he takes part in many outdoor activities and has climbed both Snowdon and Ben Nevis.



**FINALIST** **Michael Chope**, from Devon, is pictured outside 12 Park Crescent with his wife and (right) **Miss Jane Thomson**, one of the Society's social workers. Michael, a former pupil of the Society's **Thomas Delarue School**, and a **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award** winner, is now a teacher.

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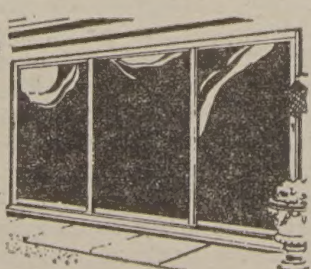
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# Friends and colleagues honour Anne Harrington

A FAREWELL party was held at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square for Mrs Anne Harrington, the Thornton Heath Housekeeper whose story was told in the February issue of *Spastics News*.

Mrs Harrington was born in 1913, one of a large family in a poor South London household and life

has never been easy for her. Suffering from a mild athetoid disability, she had a very difficult childhood and as a young woman worked in a variety of exhausting domestic jobs. She also brought up a daughter single-handed.

From the late 1950s she provided accommodation for spastic people in her pre-fab at Kennington, and was House-

keeper at The Spastics Society's Thornton Heath Hostel from its opening in 1963 until this year.

Guests at her retirement party included Jim Butler, her first-ever lodger at the Kennington pre-fab, who had travelled all the way from Sunderland for the occasion. Other old friends, both former lodgers and Spastics Society colleagues had come to the reunion from many different

parts of the country.

Mr Michael Stopford, the Society's Head of Centres, presented her with a cheque to which fellow members of staff had contributed and she also received two huge bouquets of flowers from the youngest guests—her grandson, Martyn Holyoak, and Bryan Wallbridge, son of a former senior social worker with the Society, well known to past residents.



CLUTCHING bouquets as big as themselves are, left, Bryan Wallbridge, son of Peggy Wallbridge, a former senior social worker with the Society who worked with many of the Thornton Heath residents, and Martyn Holyoak, Mrs Harrington's

grandson. The guest of honour sits proudly, centre, while Mr Michael Stopford, the Society's Head of Centres, stands left and Miss Margaret Morgan, Controller of Personal Social Services is on the right. Miss Morgan was Mrs Harrington's first contact in The Spastics Society in 1958.



## Father with a special interest in his work

SPECIAL furniture and equipment for handicapped children is manufactured by a Leicestershire firm whose managing director is the father of a nine-year-old spina bifida son, who wears full-length calipers and uses elbow crutches.

Items made by the firm include a specially-designed bicycle, the 'Jay Bike,' and a 'Frog Leg' transporter. They also sell a special chair which can be used by children from one to eight years, attached to a table with raised edges and a magnetised metal plate.

Brochure and price list can be obtained from R. C. Hayes (Leicester) Ltd, 65a Main Street, Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire, tel Leicester 394538.



IN the picture above Mrs Harrington is surrounded by a group of Spastics Society colleagues, and residents, both present and past. Seated, left, are Mrs Marlene Wentworth and Mrs Sandra Pain, early Thornton Heath residents, trained for domestic work under Mrs Harrington's supervision and now married with homes of their own. Between them (wearing glasses) stands Jim Butler, her first-ever lodger, now living in Sunderland. Seated, right, is Owen Sharpe, from Plymouth, whose wife Betty, standing behind him, was also a lodger in the

Kennington house. Standing, left, is Mrs Harrington's daughter Pat Holyoak and next to her, Mrs Gwyn Miller, administrative assistant at Fitzroy Square, who has known Mrs Harrington from her earliest days with The Spastics Society. Standing right, is Miss Margaret Morgan, and second from right, is Miss E. Taylor, a fellow housekeeper from the Chester Hostel and between her and Mrs Sharpe is Bill Hargreaves another colleague from the '50s, founder of the '62 Club movement and now the Society's Head of Recreational Services.

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PICTURE above: This group of old friends includes, standing from left, Malcolm Shields, one of Mrs Harrington's earliest residents, who now lives and works in Lancaster, Mr Stopford, Jim Butler, Mr Pain, husband of a former resident, Mrs Harrington, Betty Hutt, deputy housekeeper at Fitzroy Square.

Seated, from left, are Miss Margaret Alcock, a former resident who now lives at the Chester Hostel, Mrs Marlene Wentworth and Mrs Sandra Pain, both early Thornton Heath residents.

## Sale group mourns a devoted worker

MEMBERS of the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society are saddened at the death of Mrs Lilian Angus-Butterworth, known affectionately as "Sister" to fellow members, and spastics and their relatives attending the Lil Stockdale Centre at Sale.

Mr W. Sayle-Creer, FRCS, Chairman of the group, writes:

"SISTER," as she was known affectionately to so many in Sale, Altrincham and districts around, died in Wythenshawe Hospital early on Sunday, March 7, after an illness, complicated by a fracture of the hip, aged 68.

She was a Scot from Thirso in Caithness. She trained as a nurse at Salford Royal Hospital, after which she held several nursing appointments in Manchester and in London. In 1937 she married another Scot, Lionel M. Angus-Butterworth, lived in Ashton New Hall, Ashton on Mersey, and bore him a son and two daughters, all of whom survive her. She was a wonderful

cook, her hobbies included Scottish dancing.

Her memorial is the wonderful work she did for the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society. She joined in the work very soon after the Society was formed 22 years ago. She would turn her hand to anything that benefited our small patients. She would play with them, dress and undress them, wash them, put them to bed. She was the perfect foil to Mrs Lil Stockdale. An activity which held her deep attachment was to give lectures to schools, women's societies, churches, anywhere where the message of the need for assistance and money to help the children could be spread. Many will recall with pleasure how she took a cine film, with our Warden, Mr Pegram, as projectionist, and spoke so eloquently that hundreds of people became our friends. Donations of considerable size resulted.

She also worked indefatig-

ably at helping to send out and circulate our Covenant scheme for donations. She attended meetings of The Spastics Society in London, she was a liaison with our Regional meetings and more voluntary organisations than many of us realised. To fill the gap left is not likely to be easy but she would want us to continue where she left off. Her influence on us all was, and always will be profound.

## £250 bed gift for children

THAMESDOWN and District Spastics Association has presented a special bed to Brimble Hill special school for handicapped children, Swindon.

The bed, costing about £250, is for children with severe cerebral palsy who would otherwise have to spend their days on mattresses on the floor.

This piece of equipment will enable the children to have more physical contact with teachers, visitors and their playmates.

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## 'Marvellous time' on weekend away

A WEEKEND holiday organised by a club for disabled people in East London, was so successful that the holidays could now become regular events. 'We all had a marvellous time,' said Rosemary Allen, 22, of Dagenham, who helped organise the holiday. 'I hope we can organise more later on.'

The idea for the group to go away together came from one of the members of the Disabled Fellowship Club of East London. On hearing about it a nun who helps out at the club, Sister Christine, thought that a convent at Broadstairs might loan two small houses it owns for a trial weekend.

Soon everything was organised, and a group of 13 disabled people and their helpers travelled down to Broadstairs. They included a variety of handicapped people including polio victims, spastics, a blind

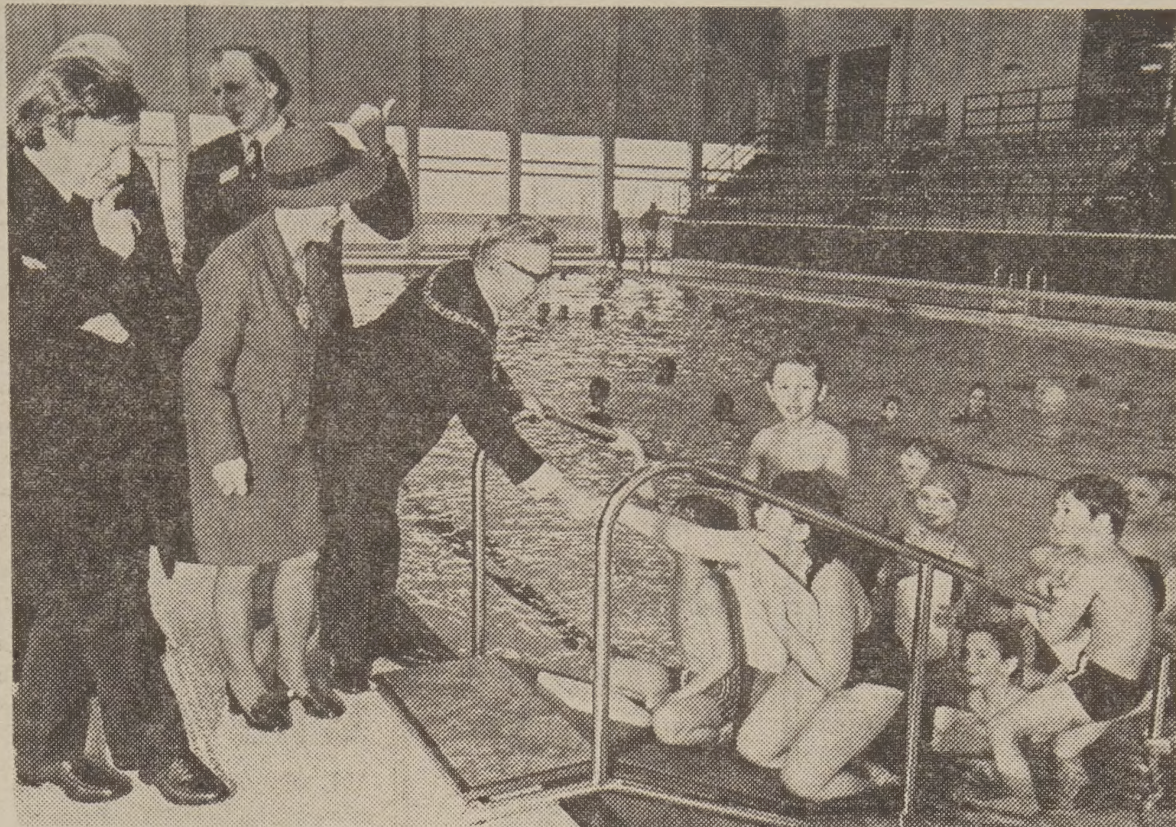
person, another with spina bifida.

'We had a look round Broadstairs, and visited Canterbury to look at the Cathedral and to go shopping,' said Rosemary. 'Most of us had never been to Canterbury before.'

### They knocked on doors for £2,000

A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE collection organised by the Society's London Region in the boroughs of Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Newham, Barking and Havering, raised over £2,000. Part of the money has been given to the three local groups involved to be spent on facilities for spastic people in the area. The rest has been paid into the London Regional Fund.

## Group help for disabled swimmers



RUGBY and District Spastics Society has provided a special ramp so that handicapped swimmers can enter the swimming pool more easily at Rugby Sports Centre. A fine example of the way a local group can provide important amenities for all disabled people in its area.

The ramp was handed over by the Mayor of Rugby, Councillor Cyril Orland, who is pictured greeting young swimmers at the pool. Looking on are (from left) Mr Bill Price, MP for Rugby, Mr Derek Dolphin, sports centre manager, and Mrs Orland.

Picture by courtesy of Rugby Advertiser.

# A survival guide to OU summer school

**MY drink problem and how I resolved it was, I feel, the crucial factor in the two residential summer schools I have now attended as an Open University student. The first, at the University of East Anglia, was a part of A100, the Arts Foundation Course. I loved the subject matter and was thoroughly looking forward to long discussions with like-minded students.**

Then a lengthy document arrived in the post, worded in the sternest possible manner, stating that disabled students must take a personal assistant along to summer school if they needed any kind of help whatsoever and assistance in the dining room was particularly stressed. Although I can carry a tray loaded with two or three plates of solid food, I am unable to transport full cups or glasses. This is the only real motor handicap I possess, although cosmetically, my athetoid jerks may not look very elegant.

### They laughed

I have my own flat, do all the cooking and housework, commute regularly to London and travel extensively on all types of public transport. I have also been on holiday abroad by myself. My friends fell about laughing at the idea that I might need to take a personal assistant, but I had been so frightened by the OU directive I was unable to share their amusement. My counsellor said he was sure that I would cope more than adequately on my own. 'It's just that the computer can't distinguish between degrees of disability'—but I was still nervous.

I set off for Norwich laden with vacuum flask, instant coffee, powdered milk, lidded jug, plastic beakers and all the paraphernalia for making my own drinks in the kitchen of the hall of residence. Not daring to ask the slightest favour of any other student, I dashed off to my room after every meal and at the mid-study breaks to my solitary drinking sessions.

As a result I cut myself off from most social activity and by the third day had hardly exchanged a word with even the students in my own study

**THIS is the time of the year when the minds of Open University students turn to thoughts of summer school. And particularly the University's handicapped students who, in spite of all the help and advice offered by the authorities, wonder 'What is summer school REALLY like?' Spastics News reporter ANNE PLUMMER is well on the way to her OU degree, and is an old summer school campaigner. Here she tells you of both the misery and the enjoyment of those summer school courses.**

group. Matters were not improved by the depressing nature of the residential accommodation. The bedroom walls were bare, unplastered breeze-blocks and the view in the kitchen while I waited for water to boil consisted of the most sordid graffiti. This was not even pornographic, which might at least have been instructive, but the whole effect was one of general squalor and I never met any other students in the kitchen.

By the fourth evening of the week I was so miserable I seriously considered ordering a taxi to the station and going home. But the next morning we split up into small study groups to work on various projects for fairly long periods, which entailed a good deal of coffee-drinking. We would all go into the cafeteria together and one person would fetch a tray of coffee for the whole group (all but me able-bodied). Only then did I begin to make some congenial friends, but by that time were were nearly due to go home anyway.

I think part of the trouble at Norwich was also that I had been expecting too much on the social side. OU student acquaintances who were some years ahead of me had said: 'You'll have a ball at summer school!' and perhaps I expected it all to happen with no effort on my part.

Last year I was taking D101, the Social Science Foundation Course, and I arranged to go to Keele in Staffordshire for my summer school. The same formidable 'Guidance Notes for Disabled Students' arrived in May and I chucked them into the dustbin unread. In July I set out for Keele, convinced that I would hate every moment of it.

On arrival at Keele, the fresh, white-painted bedrooms, spotless, well-equipped kitchen and lovely views over open countryside cheered me up a little. At the first meal I found that the drinks set-up

was much less formal than at Norwich. Tea and coffee were dispensed free of charge in the actual dining-room, whereas the year before we had to go into the coffee bar to buy after-meal drinks.

At Keele I devised a system at each meal of carrying my tray of food from the serving area and sitting as close as possible to the urns. When I was ready for coffee, I would ask anyone who happened to be at the urn to hand a cup over to my table or sometimes I could pour a cup for myself only half-full so that I could lift it over the short distance. Later in the week, as I got to know more people, I could usually be sitting with someone who was aware of my problems and would automatically fetch me coffee.

At mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks, free coffee and tea were served in the main assembly hall. The urns were placed half way down a long trestle table, so that I could slide my cup down to the end, away from the maddening crowd.

### Minor

I have dwelt at some length on what may seem a very minor problem to the more severely disabled, but I feel it illustrates how such small details as the positioning of coffee urns and the wording of official literature can make all the difference between enjoyment and misery for one student.

I thoroughly enjoyed the social life at Keele and much of the academic side, too. I made up my mind to chat with anybody who happened to be nearby (a good opening gambit was: 'Is this your first year?' as nearly everybody was keen to hear about the A100 course). On the infrequent occasions when I found myself alone, I made a determined effort not to feel sorry for myself. Although I made no

lasting friendships in the sense that I exchanged addresses to keep in touch with people, while the week lasted I had plenty of interesting conversation, fun and good company. The latter was frequently male which, I must admit, gave a tremendous boost to the ego, despite the Liberationist teaching of 'Women and Society,' one of the subjects we were studying.

### Social

A major part of the Social Science Foundation Course is the study of social relationships and the way people interact with one another. Having got rid of my own social hang-ups, it was quite amusing to watch how the other students behaved as the week went on. The younger ones tended to go about in groups of four to six, older members often made friends with one person of the same sex, some people always sat or walked about alone while others talked to anyone who happened to be around without joining any particular group.

As the majority of students were married, there was little obvious pairing-up between men and women other than on a purely platonic basis. But undoubtedly a certain amount of extra-marital activity does occur on these occasions. I was awoken at 5 am one morning by the sound of a door

slamming—probably someone trying to find his way quietly out of the women's block.

Probably about half of the total number of D101 students were in the teaching profession and those from secondary schools, at least, tended to dominate the discussions. It is inevitable, I suppose, that those accustomed to controlling large classes of teenage hooligans develop an authoritative manner.

There were also a number of both civil servants and housewives. Disabled people appeared to be under-represented, but maybe this was due to the hilly terrain at Keele, which would be totally unsuited to wheelchairs.

I talked briefly with Paul, who left The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School last year and now attends a further education centre for the disabled at Stockport, Cheshire. He is aiming to take a mixture of Social Science and Arts subjects for his OU degree. He thoroughly enjoyed the summer school and did not want to go home at the end of the week. Despite somewhat halting speech, he took an active part in the discussions, but his lurching gait must have slowed him down considerably in covering the wide distances between residential and study areas. However, he had brought a personal assistant who could lend a hand over the rougher ground.

Another student was a polio

victim who moved about on elbow crutches. I did not have an opportunity to speak to him, but he must have found all the hills and steps very tiring. Obviously a fellow-rebel, he had brought no helper, but the other students always seemed more than happy to carry trays and move chairs for him. The OU seems worried that if disabled people have to be helped by other students it will disrupt the study activities of the latter, but when the able-bodied are in the dining-room anyway, it takes up no time to carry an extra cup or tray.

### Attract

I think that if the Open University wishes to attract more disabled students it will have to stop frightening them with its stern directives. We are all responsible adults, fully aware of our own capabilities and limitations. Rather than the present 'Guidance Notes to Disabled Students at Summer School,' worded in such an off-putting way, it would be better to issue an access guide, in the style of, say, 'London for the Disabled,' for each host University where summer schools are being held. This would enable students to assess for themselves the potential snags and make up their own minds whether they need to take a helper—or not.

ANNE PLUMMER.

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# Anger over plan to cut transport for handicapped

DISABLED students in Nottingham have petitioned the local council because of reports that the ambulance service which takes them to their classes is to be discontinued.

The petition was organised by Miss Felicity Ashdown, 27, a spastic, of Harby Drive, Wollaton, who attends classes in history at the local WEA centre. Miss Ashdown, who is Vice-chairman of the Association of 62 Clubs, filled a foolscap sheet with signatures, many from able bodied students.

'The Council claim they cannot afford to continue the service because of the cuts in public spending,' said Felicity. 'Yet they have just spent a small fortune having their vehicles painted from green to

blue, and then back to green again.

'I feel that these courses are important because they provide one of the only means by which disabled people can mix with able bodied people on an equal footing. Everyone going has the same interest, and the fact that one is disabled becomes irrelevant.'

Miss Ashdown said the council had offered to provide transport to a new centre for disabled people. But this centre was exclusively for the handicapped, and provided no opportunities for integration.

Furthermore, the courses provided there were in such subjects as cookery and needlework. They were a kind of occupational therapy. Most of the WEA students were interested in more academic subjects.

She said that despite the fact that her petition had been sent to the council about a month ago, she still had not received an acknowledgment.

One heartening factor in the case, 'The able bodied students were up in arms over the council's decision,' she said. 'Many were really angry. They told us they liked working with us and wanted us to continue going.'

'But the ambulance was our only means of getting there.'



PRINCESS ALEXANDRA with the Girl Guides.

## Princess praises girls who worked 'jolly hard'

AN old friend of spastics everywhere, HRH Princess Alexandra, was true to form and made it her business to be at Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms to present prizes to the Royal Bank of Scotland Youth Award Winners.

Among them—they won third prize worth £200—were a group of Lanarkshire Girl

Guides whose contribution to the bank's architectural heritage improvement project was the clearing of a site and the construction of an adventure course at Stanmore House School for Spastics, Lanark.

'The Guides worked jolly hard and have given us an amenity which has given enormous pleasure to the children here,' commented Mr Thomas Weatherhead, Warden of Stanmore House. 'They did a lot more for the good of the area but I think the Stanmore House effort was one of the best,' he said.

## CASH FOR THEIR GOLDEN SILENCE

SILENCE is golden, so they say. And 20 children from the Teesside Spastics Treatment Unit at Middlesbrough General Hospital have certainly found a way of making money out of it.

They held a sponsored silence recently, and raised a quiet £112, which went not to handicapped people, but to men and women who are extremely fit.

It is the British Athletic Team who will benefit, because the money is going towards the fund to help them in their efforts to bring back gold from the Montreal Olympics. Some of the money is being retained to buy wheeled toys for the nursery class.

## Duchess forced to cancel visit

THERE was a big disappointment for the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society last month. They were expecting a visit from the Patron of The Spastics Society, the Duchess of Kent. But the Duchess was forced to cancel all her engagements for March for health reasons.

Said Mr Maurice Smith, Administrator at the group's centre, Hamilton House, 'We were all bitterly disappointed. But we are hoping that the Duchess will be able to visit us on a future occasion.'

Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, who is President of the group, was to have accompanied the Duchess of Kent on her visit, which was to have marked the Society's 21st anniversary. It had been hoped that the visit would boost the group's fund-raising campaign.

## Lady Jane opens new centre

A CENTRE which will provide help for about 60 handicapped children aged between two and seven, was opened on Saturday, March 13, by Lady Jane Wellesley, daughter of the Duke of Wellington.

The centre, for children who are difficult to assess, cost a total of £50,000. Of this £30,000 was raised by the Basingstoke Spastics Society.

Called the Saxon Wood Centre, it stands in the grounds of Park Prewitt Hospital. In addition to the 30 children who attend daily, a further 30 will attend once a week.

At the opening Lady Jane met and chatted to children at the new centre, as well as Mrs Joyce Smith, Vice-chairman of The Spastics Society, and Mrs Edith Cornette, Chairman of the Basingstoke group.

## Cost of dropping that word 'spastic'

CONTROVERSY over the use of the word 'spastic' was revived when a reader sent us a cutting from the magazine Reveille. An article published in Spastics News some months ago suggested that although, medically speaking, 'spastic' was not a correct term for all forms of cerebral palsy, The Spastics Society had become so well known under that title that to change the name at this stage would mean a disastrous loss of income and public goodwill.

Mr and Mrs Horth, of Manningtree, made the point that every pound spent on altering collecting tins, leaflets, etc, would be a pound less towards helping the handicapped.

Mr Horth followed this up by sending in the Reveille story about British Road Services Parcels which changed its name to Roadline UK. It cost them no less than £260,000 to change the name on its lorries and stationery—not to mention the loss of business which resulted from the confusion in the minds of customers.

## Students blush after conference boob

THERE are some red faces among the organisers of the National Union of Students Easter Conference to be held at Llandudno.

On the agenda is an item about university facilities for disabled students. But many of these students will not be able to attend because of a lack of facilities at the conference itself.

One of the students who wanted to attend but cannot, is this year's Spastics Society Achievement Award Winner Alyn Haskey. Mr Haskey is severely disabled and confined

to a wheelchair. He studies sociology at York University.

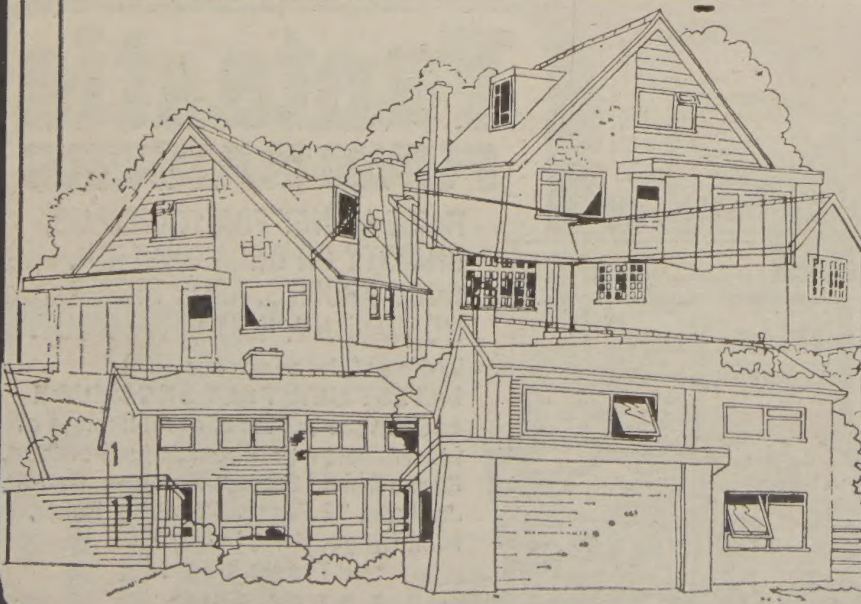
The Disablement Incomes Group in York has told the NUS that the situation is lamentable when the problems of disabled people were about to be discussed, many students with those very problems could not be present because of lack of facilities.

A NUS spokesman said there had been problems in booking a place big enough to house the conference. But in future the needs of disabled people would be borne in mind in the booking of conference venues.

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